

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. The recent abolishment of rationing provided an outstanding instance of the discrepancy between propaganda and reality in Rumania. A full month prior to this step ration points were no longer being honored, so that people who had saved their points in the hope of buying clothing and footwear for Christmas lost their rationing privileges and had to pay, if they could afford it, far more for the things they needed. Thus, a pair of shoes formerly marked 75 lei rationed sold on the "free" market for 200 lei. Other goods rose proportionately. At the present time all stores are well stocked, but none can afford to buy the things for sale. A better pair of shoes now cost over 300 lei, a month's pay for most workers. 25X1
2. Meals are cheap enough at canteens, costing three to four lei per meal, but the food is bad. 25X1
the food was so bad and scant at
canteen that often to eat at the expensive restaurants.
milk price being four lei a litre. 25X1^{25X1}
3. The housing shortage is acute and people pay large sums in "good will" fees to get a place to live. Fees normally run 3,000 to 4,000 lei and upon receipt of the money the owners or tenants usually move out to the provinces. 25X1
It was pointed out that there are numerous families, some with tuberculosis patients among their members, who have been waiting for six months and more for such accommodations. There is very little building going on in Rumania notwithstanding the propaganda of the regime to the contrary. A little housing construction has been underway in the provinces, but there has been no improvement in Bucharest. 25X1 25X1
4. Everyone in Rumania hates the regime. This is especially true of the peasantry who are riled at the quota delivery system. This system is so oppressive that the peasants normally have to buy grain and other

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produce at exorbitant black market prices and resell it as their quota. They are also forced to have their cattle cared for in collective barns, where the animals are neglected. Yet, although all the peasants are disgruntled, there is much reciprocal distrust and they abstain from political discussions even with their closest associates.

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a Transylvanian musician was denounced by his own wife for listening to Western radio broadcasts. The musician managed to save himself by pointing out that he was interested professionally in musical broadcasts. Freed after a few days' arrest, the man had to make up with his wife who now threatens him with evidence of his "reactionary" attitude.

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5. Everyone lives in hope of war and short-range forecasts are constantly being made as to its outbreak. Every move abroad is interpreted optimistically in this sense and even such things as the shifting of a Soviet unit or command is cause for hope. When Petru Groza, President of the Rumanian Presidium, failed to return with the rest of the delegation to China some months ago, the Rumanian people thought he had managed to flee into the free world and this naive hope occasioned much disappointment when he finally returned to Rumania.
6. Dissatisfaction is rife even among those who are successful in their particular line of work for it is possible that these individuals can be relegated to lower rank at any time by competitors who enjoy the favor of the communists. This is particularly noticeable in delegations selected for trips abroad. The trips are usually planned years in advance and it is not uncommon for prospective members to be left behind at the last moment, even to the point of being removed from the train just before departure time.
7. Delegates to countries of the free world are warned that they might be "booed" by "fascist" elements and are told to keep smiling if this happened. They are told that "progressive" elements are very strong and determined in the West. Aside from the camouflaged policemen who go with the delegations, many members are included because they had on previous occasions been active in denouncing their companions. the case of one individual who, upon returning from a trip abroad, denounced another for having brought back to Rumania a large quantity of American cigarettes with the hope that he would be able to sell them. The accused was punished and the accuser, who was less capable, was included at the last moment in the delegation's next trip abroad.
8. There is no let-up in the communist propaganda aimed at Rumanian delegations traveling abroad. On sightseeing tours to notable places of interest, local communist guides keep stressing the hard lot of the poor and contrasting it with the "bourgeois" scenes generally being viewed by the delegation.

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